



PATENTS
15311-2107

RECEIVED
MAY 25 2000
TECH CENTER 2700

Page 13, line 26, after "Consequently", add a comma: —,—.

REMARKS

The foregoing specification amendments correct minor punctuation errors.

In the Office action dated February 18, 2000, the Examiner rejected all claims under 35 USC §102(b) on the theory that the claims' subject matter was anticipated by the disclosure contained in U.S. Patent No. 5,276,634 to Suzuki et al. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider this rejection, since Suzuki et al. do not disclose the claimed differential pre-shift before the mantissa addition.

The segment of Applicants' specification that begins on page 6's line 14 and continues through page 7's line 15 explains that the mantissas for the same two numbers are both positioned one bit farther to the left when they are effective-subtraction operands than when they are effective-addition operands. This pre-mantissa-addition shift yields the potential for significant circuit and operational simplification, as is explained in the part of the specification beginning of page 15's line 8. That part of the specification explains that the floating-point-addition circuitry can operate with only two choices for round-bit position rather than the conventional three, and only one possible direction of post-addition-normalization shift needs to be provided for rather than the conventional two.

Although the Examiner has directed Applicants' attention to lines 18-29 of Suzuki et al.'s column 1 and to lines 12-18 of Suzuki et al.'s column 11 as exemplifying claim 1's feature that "the mantissa signals applied to the main mantissa adder when the

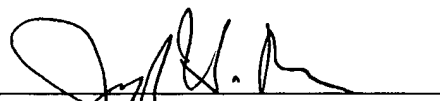
main mantissa adder is to subtract a pair of mantissas are offset to the left by one position from the mantissa signals applied thereto when the main mantissa adder is to add the same pair of mantissas," Applicants see no such offset of both operands' effective-addition positions from their effective-subtraction positions.

Column 1's excerpt to which the Examiner invites Applicants' attention merely describes the difference between the situations that call for effective addition and those that call for effective subtraction. And the referred-to excerpt from Suzuki et al.'s column 11 refers to an offset employed only in an exponent subtraction, not in a mantissa subtraction. So neither of these excerpts can disclose or suggest claim 1's subject matter, and Applicants have found no such disclosure or suggestion in that or any other of the references to suggest such a concept.

So Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider his rejections under 35 USC §102(b) and allow all claims now in the application.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph H. Born
Reg. No. 28,283
CESARI AND MCKENNA, LLP
30 Rowes Wharf
Boston, MA 02110-2699
(617) 951-2500